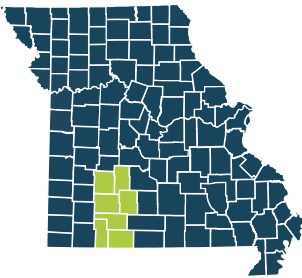


# OZARK REGION

## MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

### JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Ozark region is projected to have over 33,400 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (95%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 56 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$50,960).

#### Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
1,556 Job Openings \$79,632 Average Wage	23,495 Job Openings \$49,200 Average Wage	6,659 Job Openings \$40,894 Average Wage

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most annual total job openings

**over 4,700**

#### Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B annual openings

**over 3,700**

#### Management Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs Concentration

**91%**

Top Outlook Occupation Groups			
Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	4,750	3,728	78%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4,259	3,029	71%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	3,860	3,378	88%
Sales and Related Occupations	3,757	3,305	88%
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,891	1,617	86%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,715	1,157	67%
Production Occupations	1,680	586	35%
Management Occupations	1,530	1,390	91%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	1,462	987	68%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	1,441	1,315	91%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,381	1,010	73%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	1,218	942	77%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,102	909	82%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	929	542	58%
Protective Service Occupations	626	348	56%

## Ozark Region Top Grade Jobs

### Now

Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Cashiers 🔥	1,343	1.1%	\$28,493
B	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	1,176	7.2%	\$36,164
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	1,069	2.0%	\$34,421
B	Waiters and Waitresses 🔥	987	3.4%	\$35,318
B	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	943	6.2%	\$31,384
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	787	7.3%	\$40,996
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	666	2.9%	\$28,575
B	Office Clerks, General	651	7.5%	\$41,193
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	639	10.7%	\$32,562
B	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	568	8.4%	\$36,908

### Next

Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	878	8.5%	\$57,084
B+	Cooks, Restaurant	561	3.6%	\$32,492
B	Nursing Assistants 🔥	438	8.8%	\$34,428
B	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers 🔥	353	3.2%	\$37,842
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 🔥	341	10.4%	\$43,321
B	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	279	10.7%	\$40,844
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks 🔥	268	8.5%	\$43,199
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	259	2.7%	\$48,543
B+	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers 🔥	236	8.6%	\$58,814
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	218	12.6%	\$33,295

### Later

Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 🔥	721	5.4%	\$85,289
A	Registered Nurses 🔥	487	9.3%	\$68,162
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	248	13.6%	\$52,373
B+	Accountants and Auditors 🔥	184	12.4%	\$66,297
B	Human Resources Specialists 🔥	135	10.6%	\$60,942
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	126	13.5%	\$62,817
B+	Project Management Specialists 🔥	98	6.5%	\$82,468
B	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists 🔥	96	11.9%	\$62,136
B	Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary	87	13.7%	\$49,330
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	82	13.6%	\$57,929



Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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